

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 30, 2001

CONTACT: Nikki Crosslin
Information Officer
(615)741-2257 (O)
(615)297-0105 (H)

NASHVILLE – As a result of a federal grant through the U.S. Department of Labor, people living in metropolitan Nashville/Davidson County filing claims for unemployment insurance will do so by telephone beginning **Tuesday, September 4, 2001**.

State Labor & Workforce Development Commissioner Michael E. Magill said beginning the Tuesday after Labor Day, Nashvillians filing unemployment claims will no longer go to one of the department's local offices.

"Starting next week, claimants will file for unemployment benefits by touch-tone telephone, a far more convenient and cost-effective system for both claimants and employers," said Magill. "The change in procedure will eventually apply to all Tennesseans filing claims, but right now is effective only for those who live in the Metro Nashville area."

Callers are guided through a series of questions they answer by pressing numbers on the telephone keypad. Before calling, a claimant should have ready his Social Security Number, driver's license number, and employment data for the last 18 months of employment, including employers' addresses and phone numbers.

Those receiving benefits are still subject to work search requirements. Just as in the past, they will be required to contact a Job Service office and register for referral to work.

Anyone needing to apply for unemployment benefits on or after Tuesday, September 4, 2001, or having questions about the new telephone claims-taking process should call **(615) 253-0800**, or for the hearing impaired, TDD (615) 253-0835.

--30--

(01-119)

The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development is an equal opportunity employer. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities

El Departamento del Trabajo y Desarrollo de la Fuerza Laboral es un organismo empresarial que aplica la igualdad de oportunidades. Los Servicios y ayudas auxiliares están disponibles para los individuos con impedimentos si los solicitan.